

**REMARKS****Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 5-8 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowarz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,831) (hereinafter "Kowarz") in view of Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,211,993) (hereinafter "Wang").

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowarz in view of Wang, as applied to claim 5, and further in view of Brazas, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,458) (hereinafter "Brazas").

Claims 1-4 and 17-20 are allowed.

**Summary of the Response to the Office Action**

Applicants have cancelled claims 5-8, 21 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 17-20 remain currently pending for consideration.

**All Remaining Claims are in Condition for Allowance**

Claims 5-8 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowarz in view of Wang. Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowarz in view of Wang, as applied to claim 5, and further in view of Brazas. Applicants have cancelled rejected claims 5-8, 21 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections of these claims moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that all remaining claims 1-4 and 17-20 are allowed. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

### **CONCLUSION**

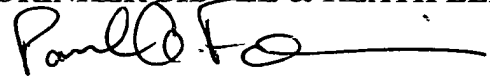
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests the entry of the Amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

**EXCEPT** for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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